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Garden Glory

An illustrated magazine about flower-bulbs for all garden lovers

Imported ★ Holland Bulbs

[1963]

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"Red Riding Hood"

To begin with, Red Riding Hood is the name of the glorious tulip on the cover. It is aptly named not only because of its colour but because it is a child of romance among tulips.

Red Riding Hood blooms early. The half-opened flower is easily distinguished in outline and the riot of bloom lasts for at least ten days even when the weather is warm. The keen gardener will have guessed already that this is a cross between the kaufmanniana and greigii species, confirmed by the brown-striped leaves.

The attractive species illustrated on the left is a Tulipa fosteriana named Princeps. Above the shining green leaves the dark red of the blossom glows like a torch. The photograph below is of the wild tulip, Tulipa tarda. The flower of this species grows in whole clusters and is one of the most robust Tulipas, spreading out splendidly even in the heaviest garden soil. It is ideal for the rock garden. Bring your friends close up to this tulip because it is marvelously fragrant.

But back to Red Riding Hood. Everyone knows the famous fairy tale of the little girl and the big bad wolf. After swallowing Granny and then Red Riding Hood the weary wolf fell into a long sleep. Finally a woodsman came along, cut him open and freed both Red Riding Hood and her grandmother.

This story has its parallel in the garden. We are now in the Fall. But soon the wolf of winter will come to swallow all garden life and fall into a deep sleep. Then Spring, like the woodsman, will finally appear to free life again and Red Riding Hood will burst forth in every garden. In addition, all the other flower-bulbs which were planted in the autumn will begin to reveal their latent beauty.

Above: Tulipa fosteriana princeps.
Below: Tulipa tarda, a fragrant wild tulip for the rock garden.

These charming flowers are known as Peacock hybrids, so-called because of their magnificent display of colour. A cross between Tulipa greigii and Tulipa kaufmanniana, they bloom in early Spring.

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From Chrysanthemum To Chrysanthus

Everyone knows that the chrysanthemum is one of the last flowers of Autumn, flaunting its brocade colours in the garden until December. But few people are aware that the Crocus chrysanthus is one of the first flowers of the new year. When this early golden crocus is planted under a protecting brick wall it can be coaxed into bloom as early as February. The winter sun will warm the bricks during the day and they will function like an old-fashioned tile stove during the night, reflecting warmth on the little flower-bulbs. The Crocus chrysanthus is prolific. The cluster on the left developed from only a dozen flower-bulbs in three years.

Although only the golden Crocus chrysanthus is illustrated here, there are in fact some six different kinds of these early spring crocuses. The pale lilac and blue varieties are as pretty as their golden sisters and are equally faithful perennials. All are ideal for the rock garden and should be planted 2-3" deep in spots reached by the winter sun.

The photograph below is representative of some dozen small flower-bulbs which bloom in early Spring. This variety of Scilla siberica, Spring Beauty is called "Squill" and is particularly effective when planted by the roadside or underneath deciduous trees. All varieties of Scilla siberica grow like wild flowers and will delight onlookers with their intense colours year after year.

Your local bulb merchant has photographs of the other enchanting small bulb flowers like the yellow winter aconite (Eranthis), the snowdrop (Galanthus), the grape hyacinth (Muscari), the dwarf daffodil and the beautiful Iris reticulata. They all bloom in early Spring beginning their reign in late Winter with the Crocus chrysanthus.

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How deep does one plant the Crocus?

The crocus pays continual dividends to the gardener every Spring. After the initial planting they look after themselves. The crocus flower-bulb blossoms only once, then it dies and develops daughter-bulbs. A good quality crocus bulb in the second year of flowering will have developed into three to five new plants. These will all work themselves into the right depth. When you plant crocuses bury them 2-3" deep. They will bloom early, for the sun warms the upper layer of the soil more rapidly.

Red Riding Hood Picks Daffodils

Spring has now arrived like the young woodsman in our fairy tale. The power of wolf winter has been broken. Any gardener who has followed the "naturalisation" method and scattered daffodil flower-bulbs under his lawn in the autumn can obtain as rich a reward as is revealed in this photograph. It will also save some lawn mowing in the Spring.

Daffodils are particularly gay and cheerful. They are indeed the very spirit of Spring. There are many species and countless varieties of daffodils but do ask your local bulb merchant about the special varieties or mixtures he stocks for "naturalisation" purposes.

Quick change for Red Riding Hood

This photograph was taken in May. You can tell the time of the year from the tulips—they are clear yellow Darwin tulips—and from the fact that the little girl is playing with the water in apparent comfort. This photograph also reveals how tall and stately Darwin tulips grow. Their single blossoms look spectacular against a background of water and flat tiles. Incidentally, these tiles are made of concrete, which is much cheaper than natural stone.

Yellow tulips, and, indeed, white tulips are just the thing for your rose bed. In May your roses are producing new leaves, an excellent background for tall, light-coloured tulips. As the roses grow and bloom they will conceal the withering tulip leaves. Do remember to lift the tulips and store them in a dry and airy place after their foliage has died down for it would do the flower-bulbs no good to be fertilized and watered like the roses among which they were originally planted.

The tulips in this pot bloomed indoors before the end of March

Twenty flower-bulbs were planted in mid-October. The flower-bulbs, the pot and the soil were all purchased from a local bulb merchant. After the tulips were planted the pot was buried in the garden and the covering soil checked periodically to see that it was always moist. At the end of February the pot was dug up, brought indoors, and gradually exposed to more and more light. You will note that only one variety of selected quality flower-bulbs was planted. No more need be said — the photograph speaks for itself.

Red Riding Hood's Easter Celebration

Your garden can be gloriously colourful at Easter time. The photograph immediately above shows some flowers which will bloom together. Hyacinths of all colours will flower, not only the blue variety in the photograph. Behind them are typical blossoms of hybrids of Tulipa kaufmanniana and Tulipa fosteriana; at the right and in the background Triumph tulips are almost in full bloom. The cheerful daffodils are the cyclamen-flowering variety called "February Gold", which may bloom before Easter in mild years.

Above right a few fosteriana tulips and yellow daffodils provide contrast for the Japanese quince on the wall and the pansy in the foreground.

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How to make the most of your tulips

So many wonderful types and varieties of tulips are available that it is tempting to have a few of each of them in the garden. It is more effective, however,to plant bigger groups of fewer varieties than tiny groups of many varieties. The flower-bulbs should be scattered on the ground just as seeds are sown in a big half circle and should be planted one hand's breadth deep wherever they fall.

Don't hesitate to interplant annuals with tulips. Tulips bloom just at the time when the leaf-buds of larkspur, phlox and asters, for example, provide excellent undergrowth contrast. Tulips are also a glorious sight growing between lofty roses. And bright coloured tulips interplanted with blue forget-me-nots create a picture of pure magic. Of course, a bed of tulips alone, planted 5-6" apart, will always catch the eye. The ceremonial pomp of a parade of tulips sometimes suggests that they be planted in clusters. The idea that single plants look more natural is deceptive.

In gardening, as in nature, one should not regard flowering times as sacrosanct. The weather follows its own whims. One year tulips may bloom as much as two weeks late. There have been such mild Easter's that the leafbuds of all Spring flowers have burst out simultaneously instead of gradually over an eight-week period. And there have been cool years when Darwin tulips have continued to flaunt their distinctive colours two to three weeks longer than expected.

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The photograph at the extreme left shows the splendid effect created by planting red Darwin tulips with blue forget-me-nots in the classical tradition. The splendour of the flowers in the photograph immediately above speaks eloquently for itself. In front are peony-flowering tulips, behind them are May-flowering tulips in different varieties. The baroque pomp of peony-flowering tulips is clearly revealed in the photograph in the lower right hand corner. And, above right, reaching for the sky are two distinctive lily-flowering tulips.

How many kinds of daffodils?

In the 16th century England's William Turner extensively described for the first time some 24 different species of daffodils. By the 18th century some 50 different kinds were known and a real passion for daffodils developed in England.

Today only a handful of experts are acquainted with the constantly growing list of registered named varieties. On the left are the different types of daffodil blooms, each with specific purposes of their own. Daffodils will grow indoors in pots. Some species do particularly well when planted under light trees or in the lawn. There are also beautiful varieties for the rock garden.

Narcissi (the daffodil's botanical name) are *the* flowers for Easter. You can cut them and bring sunshine into your home or you can leave them in the garden to enjoy their cheerful display of blooms there.

Poeticus daffodils, with their flat inner coronas, are early flowering and vigorous and suitable for the garden and indoors.

Trumpet narcissi grow one flower to a stem and the trumpet, or corona, is as long or longer than the perianth segments. Some varieties are pleasantly fragrant. Both large-cupped
17 and small-cupped narcissi have short-
18 er coronas and double narcissi have double flowers.

Poetaz narcissi have clusters of small flowers. Then there are sweet-scented jonquils and a whole range of dwarf daffodils indispensable for the rock garden and equally charming in pots indoors.

Snowdrops

The snowdrop or Galanthus is the first messenger of Spring. They come in many varieties, multiply rapidly in humus-filled soil, withstand the cold and have even been known to penetrate ice and snow. Snowdrops will last for years and spread in the rock garden, underneath light trees and shrubs or along paths. When grown indoors they must be kept cool.

Triteleia are dainty, sweet-scented starry flowers for Spring, ideal for naturalising in grass, for the rock garden or for edging. Plant them 3-4" deep, 2-3" apart. Height 4-6", flowering in May.

Narcissus bulbocodium grow 4-10" tall and come to us from the sunny Mediterranean. They are attention-getters because of the hoop-petticoat shape of their blooms. They flower in May in warm, well-protected spots. Winter protection is necessary in rugged climates.

Unusual Flower-bulbs

Valuable items at reasonable prices 19

Most of us have walked, at one 20 time or another, along a city street and suddenly detected the tempting and unmistakable aroma of sizzling hamburgers. Readily and at little cost we have been able to satisfy our hastily aroused appetites.

Most of us, too, have experienced on occasions an unexplained longing for fresh lobster. Now this is something special and we all know that such a delicacy can be found only in first class restaurants. Lobster is a dish for gourmets.

Have you ever eaten fresh lobster?

Not everyone appreciates it. But those who do are fully aware of the problems in coping with it, for instance if the waiter carelessly provides an ordinary fork instead of a two-pronged lobster fork.

If one isn't careful the fresh lobster can suddenly come to life on one's plate and wind up on the floor. For it takes a certain amount of skill and practice to handle lobster.

Unusual flower-bulbs are rather like fresh lobster. They are relative rarities and can be found only in special shops or at larger bulb merchants.

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Grape hyacinths (Muscari) are familiar flowers, particularly the common cobalt-blue M. armeniacum (above left). The feathery-plumed amethyst-coloured M. plumosum (above right) is most unusual and lasts well as a cut flower. Plant them close together so the heavy plumes can support each other.

Tulipa praestans Fusilier (below left) is a beautiful dwarf species worthy of a prominent position in any rockery. The three orange-scarlet blooms appearing on each stem are often said to symbolize faith, hope and charity.

Iris danfordiae grows some 3-4" tall and its clear yellow graceful flowers (below right) appear as early as February. Plant them in sunny spots in the rock garden about 3-4" deep and 2-3" apart. They also do well in pots indoors if they are kept cool until the first leaf-buds appear.

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Tulipa clusiana has become better known in recent years. This graceful little tulip with outer petals of cherry-red and inner petals of white will grow 9-12" tall. An excellent subject for pots, it also does well in the rock garden and makes a good cut flower.

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For Eranthis (Winter Aconite) space between plants should be 3-4", depth of planting between 2½-3". Eranthis bloom in late winter almost anywhere in sunny spots or half-shadow.

Anemone blanda, shown below, grows about 6-8" tall and is the earliest blooming of all the beautiful and hard anemones, flowering in March—April. Set them about 2" deep in clusters in humus-rich soil. They are superb for rock gardens and borders.

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The Camassia stems from North Africa where it is known as the Quamash. Medicine men often fed them to patients, not to cure specific ailments but because tradition credited them with remarkable strengthening powers. These noble unusual spikes grow 16-36" tall depending upon the species. Although quite hardy they like protection in cold winters. Plant them in herbaceous borders facing south.

Unusual Flowerbulbs

One must also know how to handle flower-bulbs. It is really far from difficult and your local bulb merchant will be pleased to advise you.

The flower-bulbs depicted on the last few pages are all something special and not ordinary everyday acquaintances.

From time to time we all need something different, in fact must have it to make life really worth living and to keep us happy and healthy.

Lovers of gardening are a special race of people. The full enjoyment of gardening involves planning, preparation, ceremonial and celebration.

With careful attention flower-bulbs are planted in the prepared soil of the garden, in pots or in bowls. When this is done properly you will be rewarded with success and with a display of beauty. Furthermore, you will feel relaxed and satisfied. You will have achieved something creative and you will witness and enjoy the re-birth of your flower-bulbs.

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The Watering Can Is most important

This watering can holds a one-day supply of water for a bowl of hyacinths. Growing hyacinths in bowls is both simple and convenient. You can use prepared fibre and forget about soil consistency and drainage problems. Remember that the size of the bowl should be in proportion to the size of the blooms.

It's no secret

There is no special art to making hyacinths bloom at Christmas, tulips in January and daffodils and crocus in February. All you need is best quality bulbs of the type which develop leafbuds quickly. Early planting is naturally important — from late September till the end of October. Pots and bowls must be kept moist in a dark and cool spot for at least 10 weeks, or may be buried in the garden. Once this is done there is nothing to go wrong. Bring your plants into the light, water them and that's that.

Just remember to cover the emerging plants with paper hats until the buds are longer than the leaves.

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Foxing the Wolf

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For this Red Riding Hood last winter was quite a short one. By the way, her name is Alice. She bought herself some best quality hyacinth and crocus flower-bulbs. Her bulb merchant supplied her with special potting soil. She moistened it, put a handful into the flower pot, put the bulb on top and then tamped down more soil around the bulb. After digging a square hole in the garden she placed all the pots and bowls into it, covered them with sand and sprinkled everything with water. Finally, she spread four inches of garden soil over the top. This was at the end of October.

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At the beginning of January she inspected her bulbs. The hyacinths had buds as long as her thumb and in some cases the roots were showing. Alice was delighted. She removed the pots from the hole and washed them on the doorstep. For eight days Alice left the pots standing in a cool entrance hall, each bud covered with a paper hat. Then she placed the pots near a sunny window in a centrally-heated room. The photograph on the left shows that three of Alice's hyacinths were in full bloom on February 9.

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Mirror, Mirror On the Wall

We turn now from the fairy tale about Red Riding Hood to the legend of Snow White and her wicked step-mother, the queen. In the centre of the photograph on the left is a large red pendulous shaped flower curiously surmounted by a green crown of leaves. It is called Crown Imperial or Fritillaria Imperialis. The attendants are dainty Tulipa kaufmanniana or water lily tulips.

The owner of this garden was wise to create a pool. A garden pool has many advantages. It adds a distinctive touch to a rockery and the quiet, mirror-like surface of a pool provides an unparalleled background for Crown Imperials, tulipas and other flower-bulbs. Like the mirror on the wall it is a fount of admiration.

Fritillaria imperialis must be planted about 8" deep and once planted and happily producing flowers they should be left undisturbed except for a little added nourishment every year or so. The Crown Imperial is the giant of the Fritillaria clan but even with its 3" stem topped with a striking cluster of flowers in April or May it will not overpower smaller plants, either in the rock garden or in semi-shaded borders, where they can be planted in groups of 5 to 7 or more.

Other members of the Fritillaria clan may not be as imposing as the Crown Imperial but they are delicate and charming and feature some of the most unusual colours and markings of any of the small flower-bulbs.

Fritillaria meleagris, for example, is called the Checkered Lily because of the curious markings on its 6-pointed squared-off drooping bell-like flowers, two or three of which appear on each 10-12" leafy stem in April. They come in white, in light chartreusey tones, in reddish browns and purples with deeper markings.

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Published by the: Associated Bulb Growers of Holland (Netherlands Flower-bulb Institute) Printed in Germany